

On the preparation for ministry journey, you are exploring different paths. You are beginning to live out Paul's instruction about *varieties of gifts* (*I Corinthians 12:4*).

In terms of pastoral leadership, our church is in need of pastors serving congregations. Are you familiar with the tasks ministers of Word and Sacrament perform? How can you, and those who help guide you, ensure experience-based learning opportunities to explore your talents and equip you for the reality of your call once you are ordained?

To answer those questions, consider these realities:

A first experience of reality

Since you began your journey toward ministry, you have been trying to discern your vocational path. Take time to practice being in the presence of God daily. Listen to the Holy Spirit: Where is the Spirit guiding you? Is it a different direction than expected?

To prepare for ministry of Word and Sacrament, it is helpful to be actively engaged in ministry in a congregational setting. Consider the value of experience-based learning: a summer, a semester, or yearlong internship.

Does your presbytery require Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE)? Most Presbyteries do. Even if yours does not, seek opportunity to have CPE which will help strengthen your knowledge and skill in pastoral care.

Consider trying something cross-cultural that might take you out of your comfort zone; if you come from a big-city church why not try an internship in a small town, or vice versa? What about a missionary or international experience?

The reality of your life and how others see you

Closer to home, there are other ways to explore your call and live out your faith. In your home church, offer to be a liturgist, serve on a committee, or teach a class. When you travel, worship in different congregations and learn from experienced pastors a variety of ways to conduct fruitful ministry.

If it is possible, participate in the activities of the presbytery. You will get to know the pastors and elders in the presbytery and to see at work the connectional nature of our church.

Invite experienced pastors to be your mentors. Listen to their experiences and consider their advice thoughtfully.

Live creatively – and with ambiguity. Ask yourself: Whom am I serving, and what gifts do I have? Who am I becoming? Ask others about yourself and learn to listen to their feedback. Look for gifts in others and learn about yourself.

On this preparation for ministry journey, let each learning experience enrich you, and may you be a blessing to those who live, learn, and work with you.

Consider Your Calling

Consider . . .

**The Reality of
Your Call**



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*Consider your own call, sisters and brothers.
(1 Corinthians 1:26)*